

March 13, 1973

SPEAKER: Senator Snyder, then Senator Fred Carstens, then Senator Skarda.

SENATOR SNYDER: Thank you Mr. President, members of the body, I think Senator Warner touched upon one question that I had, that dealt with the opposition to the bill prior to its passage on final reading through the legislature. I reread the committee statement and I note that there was no opposition and Senator Warner pointed this out, I was wondering Senator Schmit if you would yield to a question?

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit will you yield to a question?

SENATOR SNYDER: To follow up on the lack of opposition at the committee hearing, has there been any contact from the Governor's staff since the public hearing, any contact to you dealing in the area of whether or not there was some opposition from the Governor's office?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Snyder there was never any opposition expressed to me by the Governor or his staff in regard to LB 14, prior to the time that it was passed on the floor of the legislature.

SENATOR SNYDER: Alright, thank you. I have one other point Mr. President, if I may, I have gone back, and on page 714 of our legislative journal is the message from the Governor dealing with his reasons for his veto of LB 14, and the companion bill 14A, and he mentions that the bill does call for the employing of three attorneys to assist county attorneys, and the "preparation and prosecution of cases", and I'm going to accept that as reason enough, personally to support Senator Schmit in this legislation. I don't think anyone has to have anymore figures pointed out to them to realize that this drug problem is not something that is just a passing fancy or something that politicians like to jump upon for the sake of publicity, I don't believe that. I believe in this case we should realize, because I have reaffirmed my conviction in this area by talking with Senator Luedtke, who of course is Chairman of Judiciary and of course whose committee heard that bill, and that deals with the fact that we do have for the most part, with the exception I believe, I'm correct, with the exception of Lancaster county and Douglas county, I believe we have just about every other county having a part time county attorney, and in what little experience I've had here in talking with these part time county attorneys, I think that if they were polled they would agree that they do in many cases do not have a great deal of training in this area and because they are part time and like us have to depend on outside practice to maintain a decent level of living, I think that they are going to say that, please don't burden us with expecting us to be able to knock out drug abuse in our counties, we just don't have the time, the facilities or of course, the staff, and as Senator Carpenter pointed out, this is a one year trial program, now if the dollar tag is something like sixty thousand dollars, with all the programs that we have dealing with money, I think sixty thousand dollars being a very small part of the expenditure that this state will encompass for the next two year period, this sixty thousand dollars has to rank as one of the priority spending items, and again I certainly do continue my support to Senator Schmit and his LB 14.

SPEAKER: The Chair next recognizes Senator Fred Carstens.

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: Mr. President and members of the legislature, I do not want to prolong this debate, I know the time has about come to vote, but I want to add this and this is one thing that has been bothering me and has been accumulating over quite a period of time. I believe we are going to have to start